Liberalisation of Classified Data to Users

869. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government haye been requested by liberalise the availability of classified data to users;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action on these requests; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Formation of Core Group to Boost Exporters

870. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a core group has been formed with trade and industry associations to boost exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the objectives of this core group;

(d) whether such core groups constitute duplication of already existing bodies; and

(e) if not, the distinctions between such groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Core Group will provide a forum for facilitating inter-action between Govt. and Industry to resolve operational problems in the interest of export promotion A copy of the order setting up the Core Group is attached as per statement (*See* below).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Copy of the order of setting up of a Core Group for providing a forum for interaction between Govt. and Industry

No. 1 (PRU)/92-97/95/
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE
POLICY RESERACH UNIT.

New Delhi, date the 3rd July, 1995.

O R D E R

Subject: *Setting up of a Core Group.*

With a view to providing a forum for interaction at a functional level with Trade and Industry Associations, it has been decided to set up a Core Group.

2. The Core Group will comprise of:—

(i) Member (Customs) — Member
(ii) DGFT — Member
(iii) Secretary General, C.I.I. — Member
(iv) Secretary General, FICCI. — Member
(v) Secretary General, ASSOCHAM. — Member
(vi) President, FIEO. — Member
(vii) JDGGFT (Policy) — Member

3. The Core Group will interact at a functional level with Trade and Industry Associations to identify operational problems requiring to be resolved for export facilitation and promotion. Based on these operational problems, the Group could identify such Policy/ Procedural changes as may be deemed necessary. the Core Group shall meet once a month to sort out the routine problems with regard to Policy/ Procedures/infrastructural constraints and to give suggestions to improve the current situation.

4. The Core Group may co-opt such additional members as deemed necessary.

(S. NIGAM)
JOINT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE

Copy to Members of the Core Group.

World Banks' study on sugar industry

871. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have opposed the World Bank move to undertake a study on the sugar industry in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food is of the view that as most of the policy issues relating to the sugar sector have already been examined by various Committees which are now being processed for taking a final decision, the proposed study on the sugar sector by the World Bank does not appear to be necessary at this stage.

EPZs in Bihar

872. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have established Export Processing Zones in the country for encouraging exports;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how many such Zones have been set up in Bihar;

(c) whether any improvement has taken place in Indian exports after the establishment of these Zones;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if no, EPZs have been set up in Bihar, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven Export Processing Zones (EPZs) are functioning in the country located at Kandla (Gujarat), Bombay (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), There is no EPZ in Bihar.

(c) and (d) Exports by industrial units in EPZs during 1994-95 was Rs. 2653.11 crores which accounted for 3.22% of the total exports from the country.

(e) Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing EPZs, there is no proposal at present for the Central Government to set up new Zones in the country. However, EPZs can now also be established by the State Governments or in the joint/private sectors.

In addition, with a view to involve the State Governments in export efforts, an Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) Scheme has now been drawn up which envisages of central assistance towards development by the State Government of Industrial infrastructure with an export orientation.

Under this scheme, the Central Government has also approved a proposal of the Bihar Government for setting up of such a Park at Hajipur in District Vaishali during 1994-95.

Non Payment of Arrears of Sugar Cane by Sugar Mills

873. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugarmill owners have withheld the payment of Rs. 900 crore due to sugarcane growers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has caused much resentment among the